

**Testimony of Eric Brown**  
**Connecticut Business & Industry Association**  
**Commerce Committee**  
**March 18, 2014**

**S.B. 485: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR PRIORITY  
DEVELOPMENT SITES IDENTIFIED BY MUNICIPALITIES.**

**CBIA's Position: Support**

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to provide comment in support of the above referenced bill. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as associate counsel and director of energy and environmental policy for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses in Connecticut of all sizes and our core mission is to help advance policies that makes Connecticut an attractive choice for investment creating more opportunities for our citizens to have good jobs and high quality of life for themselves and their families.

Accordingly, CBIA appreciates the Commerce Committee raising S.B. 485 and is pleased to support this measure because we believe it will help accelerate the remediation and revitalization of contaminated properties that are all too common in our state, largely due to our significant and proud history of contributing to our nation's preservation and prosperity during the industrial revolution.

Unfortunately, economic and regulatory conditions in our state are not yet such that we can wholly rely on attracting private capital to invest in cleaning up these properties. Part of the challenge is associated with a variety of permitting requirements and procedures that can be very lengthy and expensive for both those seeking to redevelop brownfields and the municipalities where they are located.

That is one reason why the legislature created an expedited permit review opportunity, under section 32-726 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

This bill would extend that opportunity for expedited permit review to the municipal level for certain parcels zoned for commercial or industrial use. The municipality would require approval from the Department of Economic and Community Development which will consider, among other factors, the environmental conditions – a factor which will favor projects located in contaminated areas such as brownfields.

This is a positive step that will help our state and municipalities advance the important goals associated with brownfield redevelopment and we respectfully urge the Commerce Committee to approve S.B. 485.